

EARLY WAYNE PIONEERS' SKETCH

Given at Peck-Kennedy-Alexander Reunion at Uniondale

"Our sturdy forefathers were too busy to leave to us much information concerning themselves or their families. They left the work of their axes, their plows, their rifles rather than that of their pens. They recorded their history upon the topography of the country rather than upon the written page and we are compelled to study their work from its results. Every old clearing is a page, while every old farm with its original boundary lines is a whole chapter in the history of this country, upon which our ancestors left the impress of their lives of toil and hardship. They changed this locality from a howling wilderness to the beautiful country of today."

The Kennedys (were in the front rank. As intimated before, they) worked with their hands but forgot to use their pens. Most of what we know of them is folklore, passed down to us from generation to generation. Tradition has it that the Kennedys are descended from the great Scotch family of that name, a branch of which originated from Scotland to the north of Ireland, presumably in the reign of William III of England. Sometime during the early settlement period of New England members of the family came from there to Connecticut, and one at least engaged in manufacturing in the northern part of that state. The mother dying, a second wife came into the family. After some years the father died, having willed the bulk of his property to the children of the second wife. The eldest son, in consequence pulled up stakes and struck out into the wilderness to find homes for himself and children. That son was David Kennedy, Sr., the progenitor in this country of the family whose reunion we are holding here today.

Sketch

David Kennedy, Sr., removed to Mt. Pleasant township from Tolland township, Conn., in 1794. He purchased land and built a log house on the farm now owned by Frank W. Bush, more widely known as the "Shelden Tiffany homestead." On this farm he lived until his death, July 28, 1827. His wife, Eunice Lester, died Aug. 26, 1826. They had seven children each of whom lived to a ripe old age, owned cleared and occupied a large farm, spent their whole lives and found their graves in Mount Pleasant township. These were: (1) Robert, who married Elizabeth King and lived on the farm now owned by his grandson, F. H. Kennedy.

(2) Eunice, who married Benjamin King, father of Benjamin and Robert King of Starrucca, and grandfather of Mrs. Wesley Peck of Mount Pleasant. They lived on the farm now occupied by J. W. Moase.

(3) Sally, who married Andrew Lester, father of Orrin Lester, and grandfather of Mrs. N. R. Kennedy and greatgrandfather of Calvin, Lester W. and Rudolf H. Kennedy. The Lesters lived on the farm now owned by Mrs. Wesley Peck.

(4) Nathan L., who married Pamolia, daughter of Stephen King, and lived on the farm until lately owned by his son, Robert H. Kennedy